

1    ABSTRACT

2           The present invention relates generally to mass spectrometry and the analysis of  
3 chemical samples, and more particularly to ion guides for use therein. The invention  
4 described herein comprises an improved method and apparatus for transporting ions from  
5 a first pressure region in a mass spectrometer to a second pressure region therein. More  
6 specifically, the present invention provides an improved stacked ring ion guide for more  
7 efficient use in mass spectrometry (particularly with ionization sources) to transport ions  
8 from a first pressure region to a second pressure region.